

Urbanization trends in India: problems and opportunities in the twenty-first century

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ABSTRACT

Globalization has a significant impact on countries such as India, increasing economic growth and resulting in a more urbanized India. Historically, India's population was predominantly rural, but since 1991, the urban population has grown to more than 30% of the total population. Although urbanization in India has been fueled by rapid economic growth, particularly in the last decade of the twentieth century, there has been a shift from a rural economy based on agriculture and related activities to a modern economy based on industrial activity. However, as India's urbanization process accelerates, we are witnessing negative effects on urban areas, such as a lack of basic infrastructure, drinking water, housing, transportation, and so on. Thus, this article tries to present the urbanization taking place in India, as well as giving special attention to the emerging issues and challenges associated with the urbanization process in India, and some suggestions to overcome it.

Keywords: Urbanization, Population, ICT (Information and Communication Technology), GDP (Gross Domestic Product), SEZ (Special Economic Zone).

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has resulted in rapid growth in the world economy, as well as faster and easier movement of people, goods, and capital. And because of globalization, the only concept that comes into full swing is urbanization. Urbanization is a concept that is integral to the development process. Industrialization and urbanization are inextricably linked; just as agriculture promotes village development, industry promotes town growth (Maheshwari, 2006). There is a close relationship between urbanization and economic growth, as demonstrated by many developed or industrialized countries as well as a few developing countries. As a result, many people live in cities and towns, which have facilitated the evolution of knowledge and served as incubators for civilization and growth (Singhsodhi, 2003). Almost every country's urban population will increase, as the majority of the world's population now lives in cities for the first time in history. However, the urbanization process is accompanied by a number of problems, primarily related to the provision of basic facilities and services in urban areas such as water supply, sanitation, housing, transportation, and so on. India, one of the world's fastest growing economies, has seen a significant increase in urbanization. Since the 1990s, our country's emphasis on economic liberalization, financial sector reforms, and decentralization has contributed to further economic growth, bringing the economic role of cities into sharper focus (Ibid.). However, there are the aforementioned problems of urbanization in India, which this paper will attempt to present and provide some suggestions to make urbanization productive for our society, especially in this twenty-first century, which many economists refer to as the 'Asian Century', with GDP growth (particularly in the context of China and India).

LITERATURE REVIEW

By the middle of the twenty-first century, urbanization will have engulfed more than half of India's population. However, urbanization as a process in India is quite different from other countries, especially the Western world, where it came into existence through the gradual progress of industrialization and urbanization together. Thus, in India, there is a wide range of literature on urbanization. Some of the important literatures are discussed below: Lalit Batra, 'A Review of Urbanization and Urban Policy in Post-Independent India', (2009). In this paper, he tries to give insight into the existence of urban policy from British rule to the post-independence period (here, the shift in urban policy in every Five Year Plan period) and, more importantly, the current neoliberal reforms undergoing in the field of urban affairs. 'Report on Indian Urban Infrastructure and Services', Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, 2011. According to this report, urbanization in India is unavoidable, so the need to address the various issues associated with it necessitates a combination of actions, beginning with increased investment, strengthening the governance framework, and, most importantly, capacity building for the people and institutions involved in urban affairs. In her book 'Transforming Our Cities: Postcards of Change' (2014), Isher Judge Ahluwalia discusses how the majority of cities in India are facing huge challenges on all fronts, or how the government is facing a significant challenge in urban governance. The reasons are a lack of basic infrastructure such as good roads, water, housing, parks, and electricity. Although Isher Judge Ahluwalia also provided references about some cities in India, which have taken positive steps in solving the issues that arise from urbanization. As a result, large-scale urban transformation in India is urgently required. In his book 'Cities and Public Policy: An Urban Agenda for India' (2014), Prasanna K. Mohanty discusses the role of cities in catalyzing growth, which leads to overall national development. The negative effects of urbanization can be mitigated by implementing meaningful urban public policy or reforms in various urban areas such as urban planning, finance, and management. To accomplish this, the book discusses a variety of examples from India and around the world of how to develop and implement effective urban public policy. 'Urbanization in India: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward', (2014) contains 11 scholarly articles written by experts on the field of urban studies. The challenges of urbanization in India have been discussed, as well as the opportunities that can be realized if they are used properly and efficiently through good urban planning. The book focuses on the need for urban infrastructure, effective service delivery systems, financing, and, most importantly, sustainability, as well as the role of urban local government. Thus, there is a wealth of important literature on the subject at hand, and the authors attempted to bring it all together in one article to produce a unique study on the theme of urbanization in India.

Urbanization: A Concept

In 1950, only about 30% of the world's population lived in cities, which had increased to more than 50% by 2012. It was estimated that by the year 2030, more than 70% of the world's population would live in urban areas. The term 'urbanization' refers to an increasing share of a country's population living in cities [and thus a decreasing share living in rural areas]. The growth of a nation's urban population can be attributed to natural increase (births minus deaths), net rural-to-urban migration, and reclassification (e.g., when a rural settlement becomes urban or its boundaries expand, bringing in previously rural residents).](Satterthwaite; Gordon, and Tacoli., 2010). According to the Census definition of India, an urban area consists of (Census of India, 2011):

- 1) All Statutory Towns: All places with a Municipality, Corporation, Cantonment Board or Notified Town Area Committee, etc. so declared by State law; and
- 2) Census Towns: which places and satisfy following criteria:-

□ a minimum population of 5000 ; □ at least 75% of male working population engaged in non agricultural pursuits; and □ a density of population of at least 400 persons per sq km.

Furthermore, Population Census in India classifies urban settlement into six size classes as per the limits indicated below (Kundu, 2001):

Population Size	Category
100,000 and more	Class I
50,000 to 100,000	Class II
20,000 to 50,000	Class III
10,000 to 20,000	Class IV
5,000 to 10,000	Class V
Less than 5,000	Class VI

Urbanization in India

The growth of urbanization in India is primarily driven by two factors: an increase in the urban population, which is natural, and migration, which is the result of people migrating from rural to urban areas, as well as from small towns/cities to large metropolises. However, in the 1990s, when the Indian government opened up their economy, the country's economic growth increased dramatically. However, this economic growth was primarily urban, which resulted in a rapid migration of rural populations to urban areas. However, in the 1990s, when the Indian government opened up their economy, the country's economic growth increased dramatically. However, this economic growth was primarily urban, which resulted in a rapid migration of rural populations to urban areas. Similarly, three cities are having more than 10 million populations in the year 2011, and it was estimated that six cities will be having 10 million populations by 2031. Thus, it was estimated that the total urban population by the year 2030 will be 610 million, which will account for the 40% of the total population of the country (Mohan, 2012). The many cities in our country, are becoming extremely crowded and if we see the 20 most densely populated cities in the world, out of which five will be from India including, Kolkata and Mumbai (Confederation of Indian Industry, 2010).

The (Table 1) clearly shows that the total population of India was increased from 102.86 crores in 2001 to 121.02 crores in 2011. The number of towns/urban agglomerations has increased from 5161 to 7935 from the period 2001 to 2012, which was an increase of 2774 towns/urban agglomerations. The urban population in the year 2011 was 37.71 crores, which was 28.61 crores in 2001. The percentage of urban population to the total population of the country was 31.16 % in 2011, which was 27.8% in the year 2001.

Table 1. Decadal Urban Population Growth in India (Census of India)

Year	Total (in crores)	No. of Towns/UAs	Urban Population (in crores)	Share of Urban Population to Total Population(%)	Decadal Growth of Urban Population (%)
1951	36.11	2849	6.24	17.3	41.4
1961	43.92	2365	7.89	18.0	26.4
1971	54.81	2590	10.91	19.9	38.2
1981	68.33	3378	15.95	23.3	46.1
1991	84.63	3768	21.76	25.7	36.4

2000	102.86	5161	28.61	27.8	31.3
2011	121.02	7935	37.71	31.16	31.8

**Data from provisional tables released by Census of India 2011. Source from-Report of the Working Group on Urban Poverty, Slums, and Service Delivery System, Steering Committee on Urbanization of Planning Commission, 3rd October, 2011, New Delhi, p. 59.*

The (Table 2) shows the average annual percentage growth rate of population of both rural/urban and overall total. During the period from 1951 to 1961, the average annual percentage growth rate of population of rural was 2.06% and 2.64% for urban, whereas the overall total was 2.16%

Table 2. Rural/Urban Differential in Growth of Population-India

Period	Average annual percentage growth rate of population		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1951-1961	2.06	2.64	2.16
1961-19971	2.19	3.82	2.48
1971-1981	1.93	4.61	2.47
1981-1991	2	3.64	2.38
1991-2001	1.81	3.15	2.15
2001-2011	1.22	3.18	1.76

Note: 1991 population includes interpolated population figures for Jammu & Kashmir. Source from-Selected Socio-Economic Statistics India-2011, Government of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Central Statistics Office, Social Statistics Division, New Delhi, October, 2011, p.20.

It was 2% from 1981 to 1991, 1.81% from 1991 to 2001, and 1.22% in the last decade (2001-2011). In urban areas, the average annual percentage growth rate of population was 3.64% from 1981 to 1991, decreasing to 3.15% from 1991 to 2001, and increasing to 3.18% in the last decade from 2001 to 2011. . Thus, the percentage growth rate for rural areas decreased from 2% to 1.22% between 1981 and 2011. However, the population growth rate in urban areas remained around 3% or higher during the preceding three decades, and interestingly, it increased slightly from 3.15% to 3.18% between 2001 and 2011. Thus, urban areas had a higher population growth rate than rural areas.

Various Sources: Report on Indian Urban Infrastructure and Services, by High Powered Expert Committee (HPEC) for estimating the investment requirements for urban Infrastructure services, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, March 2011, New Delhi, p.13. Source- www.niua.org/projects/hpec/finalreport_hpec.pdf, accessed on 15th September 2012. The urbanization rate among the top 10 major states of India in terms of population, area and per capita income, (see figure 1.1). The state of Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized state in India with 48.45%; followed by Kerala with 47.72%; Maharashtra with 45.23% and others respectively

Three of the top five urbanized states are from the south, and four of the top ten are from the south, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. The four southern states mentioned earlier are also major contributors to our country's (India) GDP. Male migration is primarily motivated by employment, as opposed to female migration in various migration streams. Males migrated from rural to urban areas at a rate of 60.9%, while females only migrated by 3%. Even within urban areas, male migration was 48.2%, compared to 3% for women. Females migrate more for marriage than for employment.

In India, especially after 1990s there emerge some metropolitan cities with specialize urban economy. The three distinct metropolitan cities regions emerging are: the first is Delhi and NCR [National Capital Region] in northern India, which have fast growing export manufacturing industries with 4.5%, while ICT [Information and Communication Technology] services and high technology manufacturing industries account for 2.6% and 2.6%, respectively. The second is Mumbai and Ahmedabad in western India, which emerged as high-tech manufacturing hubs with 9.6%, ICT services with 5.2%, and fast-growing export manufacturing with 5.1%. The third is the Bangalore-Hyderabad-Chennai triangle in southern India, which has emerged as an ICT services hub with 25.9%, which is significantly higher than the other two [fast growing export manufacturing industries and high technology manufacturing industries], which is understandable given India's dominance in the global IT sector market. The high technology manufacturing industries account for 3.2%, while the fast growing export manufacturing industries account for 5.8%, which is slightly more than the other two metropolitan cities region. The cities mentioned in the above three distinct metropolitan cities region are also the most populated in the country, especially those with more than five million people: Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Chennai, which are located in five states: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. However, other Indian cities contribute to the country's GDP. And already, the top 100 cities generate 43% of the country's wealth.

Thus, cities are the true growth engines and generators of national wealth, not only in India but around the world, as Jane Jacobs correctly demonstrated in her 1984 book 'Cities and the Wealth of Nations'. Furthermore, her analysis suggests that a nation's wealth is actually the wealth of its cities, and that the causes of a nation's problems can be traced back to the state of its cities.

Issues and Challenges in Urbanization

As our country continues to urbanize, new problems and challenges will emerge, some of which are already being felt. While the urbanization process has resulted in economic growth in our society, it is also true that there are a number of problems associated with it. Several of these are discussed below: Urbanization is also one of the reasons for global warming throughout the world and has led to climate change. Even in India, we are already seeing the impact of climate change on monsoon patterns, and we will see more in the near future in other areas.

Climate change is primarily caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and others, resulting in an increase in the earth's temperature. The climate change is basically the result of human induced activities such as agricultural systems, industrial activities, fossil fuel consumption, land use pattern and many more (Sadashivam, 2010).

Table 3. State-wise projected Slum Population from 2011 to 2017 (in millions)

State	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.034	0.035	0.037	0.038	0.040	0.041	0.043
Andhra Pradesh	8.188	8.273	8.357	8.440	8.522	8.6030.	8.681
Arunachal Pradesh	0.098	0.103	0.109	0.114	0.120	0.126	0.131
Assam	1.071	1.100	1.130	1.160	1.191	1.222	1.254
Bihar	1.684	1.707	1.730	1.753	1.774	1.796	1.817
Chandigarh	0.332	0.349	0.365	0.382	0.397	0.411	0.430
Chhattisgarh	2.112	2.169	2.228	2.288	2.348	2.410	2.471
Dadra &	0.026	0.029	0.032	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.043

Nagar Haveli							
Daman & Diu	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.010	0.010
Delhi	3.163	3.261	3.361	3.464	3.571	3.682	3.793
Goa	0.155	0.161	0.168	0.175	0.181	0.186	0.192
Gujarat	4.663	4.760	4.857	4.954	5.052	5.150	5.246
Haryana	3.288	3.391	3.495	3.600	3.707	3.815	3.924
Himachal	0.087	0.089	0.091	0.093	0.095	0.097	0.099
Jammu & Kashmir	0.494	0.504	0.514	0.524	0.534	0.544	0.554
Jharkhand	0.932	0.949	0.966	0.984	1.001	1.019	1.037
Karnataka	3.631	3.700	3.770	3.840	3.910	3.981	4.049
Kerala	0.533	0.536	0.539	0.541	0.544	0.546	0.548
Lakshwadeep	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Madhya Pradesh	6.393	6.523	6.654	6.786	6.918	7.051	7.181
Maharashtra	18.151	18.550	18.951	19.353	19.754	20.153	20.557
Manipur	0.075	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.078	0.079
Meghalaya	0.205	0.209	0.212	0.215	0.219	0.223	0.226
Mizoram	0.106	0.108	0.110	0.112	0.114	0.116	0.118
Nagaland	0.083	0.084	0.085	0.086	0.087	0.088	0.089
Orissa	1.736	1.771	1.805	1.841	1.876	1.912	1.948
Puducherry	0.137	0.143	0.150	0.156	0.162	0.167	0.174
Punjab	2.798	2.864	2.930	2.996	3.063	3.128	3.194
Rajasthan	3.826	3.895	3.962	4.030	4.095	4.160	4.225
Sikkim	0.013	0.014	0.014	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.016
Tamil Nadu	8.645	8.863	9.081	9.299	9.515	9.730	9.940
Tripura	0.131	0.134	0.137	0.140	0.143	0.146	0.149
Uttar Pradesh	10.878	11.127	11.379	11.631	11.885	12.140	12.394
Uttarakhand	0.826	0.846	0.866	0.887	0.907	0.927	0.948
West Bengal	8.547	8.641	8.733	8.825	8.919	9.014	9.106
India	93.056	94.978	96.908	98.845	100.787	102.729	104.668

Source from: Report of the Working Group on Urban Poverty, Slums, and Service Delivery System, Steering Committee on Urbanization of Planning Commission, 3rd October, 2011, New Delhi, p.60.

Rather than those found naturally in biophysical environments. Although agriculture played a role in the above cause, it was primarily due to an increase in the number of vehicles in cities and towns, increased use of fossil fuels, and construction activity by clearing green and vacant lands for the construction of buildings, roads, highways, malls, and so on. . According to Medha Patkar, a well-known Indian social activist, over 18 lakh hectares of agricultural land have been converted to non-agricultural use in the last decade (Patkar, 2012, August 23). Climate change will have a significant impact on agriculture, as more than 55% of the country's consumers earn their living directly from agriculture as cultivators and agricultural laborers. Furthermore, rural non-farm workers, such as artisans and service providers, rely on rising farmer incomes (Singh 2010). Because of climate change, there has been a lot of desperate migration of poor villagers to towns and cities in search of ways to make a living, and this will continue when the land is no longer productive or severe drought, flood, and other extreme weather conditions make farming impossible. This will also have political implications, as climate change migrants will put additional strain on an already depleted infrastructure and basic amenities in urban areas (Sadashivam, 2010)

A). This will also have an impact on food production in the country; as we can see, a large number of rural people rely on agriculture for a living, and migrating to cities will automatically impact food security in India.

As the population grows, we will see more of this problem; food inflation is already on the rise in our country, affecting the lives of both rural and urban residents. However, more emphasis will be placed on the former category, and even in urban areas, it will be concentrated on the poor. Furthermore, it will grow even more as agriculture and its related activities' contribution to GDP has recently decreased. Also, with the increase in urban population, more and more agricultural land or areas must be converted for the construction of houses, bridges, and highways for urban use, which will affect agriculture production in the near future.

B) Urban population growth will accelerate over the next few decades as a result of both rural-urban migration and natural urban population growth. However, one issue that is becoming increasingly relevant is urban poverty, which is still a significant issue in urban development and governance today. The urban poor are at the bottom of the social hierarchy, with limited access to basic services and amenities. They hold marginal positions in the communities' socio-cultural systems (Singh, 2004). Since the Fifth Five Year Plan [1974-1979], the Government of India has prioritized the eradication of urban poverty, launching a variety of policies and programs in this regard. The most important one is SJSRY [Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana], which was designed to provide gainful employment to the urban poor by encouraging the establishment of self-employment ventures and providing wage employment opportunities for families living in urban areas (Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, 2007). However, urban poverty remains a major issue for the government to address. One factor that contributes to the eradication of urban poverty is the large number of people who migrate from rural to urban areas, resulting in more poor people living in urban areas than in rural areas. These people are usually found in slums and sometimes on the side of the road, with temporary tents or even without shelter [especially in all major cities], and can be seen during the day and even more so at night when walking around the city. The policies and programmes implemented by governments to reduce urban poverty were somewhat ineffective due to a lack of supervision, monitoring, and coordination on the part of government agencies. According to the late Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, only 15 paisa* of every 100 paisa* goes to the intended beneficiary of various development programmes in rural areas. This saying also applies to the urban intended beneficiary for any development programs. The all-India HCR [Head Count Ratio] for those living below the poverty line fell by 7.3%, from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10. Rural poverty has decreased from 41.8% in 2004-05 to 33.8% in 2009-10, representing an 8% decrease during the above period. Over the same time period, urban poverty fell from 25.7% to 20.9%, a 4.8% decrease. When we compare data from both rural and urban areas, we can clearly see that urban areas are lagging behind in terms of poverty reduction, despite the fact that the preceding period was the most successful period for the Indian economy, with massive economic growth. However, this does not effectively reduce poverty in urban areas, particularly among the urban poor. Furthermore, the poverty ratio among the various social groups in urban areas is high for SC [Scheduled Caste] 34.1% and ST [Scheduled Tribe] 30.4%, whereas for OBC [Other Backward Classes] 24.3% and for all other classes it was as low as 20.9% (Press Information Bureau, 2012, March 19). It is an interesting fact that clearly reflects the majority of the population that lives in slums and unauthorized areas: SC people are mostly poor.

Muslims have the highest poverty rate in urban areas, at 33.9%, while Christians have the lowest, at 12.9%. Casual labourers had a higher poverty rate than other occupational categories in urban areas, at 47.1%. Even in prosperous Indian states such as West Bengal and Punjab, the poverty rate among casual labourers in urban areas is 53.7% and 56.3%, respectively, which is higher than the national average (Ibid.). Also, the preliminary results of the 68th NSSO [National Sample Survey Organization], which was conducted in

2009-10, revealed some significant findings. To begin, the poorest 10% of the urban population's monthly expenditure has increased by 17.2%, while the richest 10% has increased by 30.5%. In urban India's second category, the poorest 10% spends an average of Rs 23.4 per day, while the richest 10% spends Rs 255.1 per day (Sethi, 2012, August 2). C) The rapidly growing number of urban slums in metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Calcutta is due to poverty; many poor urban people cannot afford even a rented house, let alone buying a house in cities and towns. They have no choice but to live in slums, which are built on the most unhealthy and polluted land sites, and where basic amenities such as water, electricity, and sanitation are either absent or insufficient. According to the 2001 census, India's slum population was 42.6 million, accounting for 15% of the country's total urban population and 23% of the population of cities and towns with slums. According to the census, 41.6% of the total slum population lives in cities with populations greater than one million (Planning Commission, Government of India, 2011).

According to (Table 1.3), the projected slum population from 2011 to 2017 is highest in Maharashtra, which will increase from 18 million to 20 million; the next highest is in Uttar Pradesh, which will increase from 10 million to 12 million; and in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, it will increase from eight million to nine million. Many people living in slums rely on community toilets, and in some cases, particularly in small and medium towns, people use open defecation, which is less sanitary and more susceptible to various diseases.

It is a great disrespect to women, who are disproportionately affected by open defecation. However, it is important to note that not all poor people lived in slums. UN-Habitat defines a slum household as a group of people living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following: durable housing, adequate living space, access to improved water, sanitation, and secure tenure (Arabi, 2009). One major issue with slums in many metropolitan areas and cities is that governments lack reliable and accurate data on how many people live in slums. Also, the government authority failed to include and count poor urban people who do not live in slums, which is a mistake on the part of the government, and it abstains from its duty to provide basic services to these non-slum residents who are poor and in need of assistance.

For example in Delhi, according to the 2001 census an urban slum population was 1.85 million, which constitute 18.7% of Delhi's urban population. But, if full data has taken of unauthorized settlements, including jhuggi jhopdi clusters [Squatter settlements], slum-designated areas [slums recognized by the government, many of which are in the walled city], unauthorized colonies and jhuggi jhopdi resettlement colonies [Squatter resettlement colonies], these are estimated to have a population of 9.84 million in 2011. Thus, they account for more than half of Delhi's total population, which is estimated to be 19 million in 2011. Furthermore, over 100,000 people live under bridges, on pavements, and by the roadside, with many of them being rickshaw pullers and casual workers (Agarwal, 2011). Even the evacuation and rehabilitation of people living in slums into other areas is a complex issue. Because of two reasons. The first is that politicians have a vested interest in using these slum areas as a vote bank constituency, as the majority of elite and middle class people do not vote in elections. As a result, slum votes become increasingly important in winning elections. The second reason is that even when people are rehabilitated by the government, slum dwellers refuse to visit the rehabilitation site because their new homes are far from the main city and lack basic amenities such as water, electricity, and transportation.

D) There are numerous sociological implications to the concept of urbanization, the most important of which is that urbanization causes a lot of construction activity in metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Chennai, and so on. Furthermore, there is an increase in the number of vehicles, with some families owning more than one vehicle, resulting in a lack of parking spaces and traffic jams, particularly on Delhi roads, which has recently resulted in a lot of quarrels and heated debate among the people, as well as minor injuries and even deaths. The second social implication is the growing number of street children, who either live with their parents or live alone on the streets. There are several novel provisions in our constitution for the protection and

development of children, but they are only good on paper and not in practice. Street children work in rag picking, begging, selling small items (toys, balloons, etc.), shoe polishing, loading and unloading, and other tasks. Child labor became more prominent in large cities and towns, including India's capital. Children are hired because they are inexpensive and can work long hours without complaining (Staff Reporter, 2012, August 6). Street children are the most abused and exploited group. In addition to being subjected to hazardous work, they are also victims of child trafficking, pornography, prostitution, and begging, leading to a vulnerable life in cities and towns. In the state of Delhi, street children under the age of 18 account for 1% of the total child population, which is a significant number. According to the NCRB [National Crime Records Bureau] 2014, Delhi had the highest crime rate* against children at 166.9% of all Indian states. The children are also susceptible to substance abuse, and they are never able to obtain timely or adequate medical care (Shajan Binda Perappadan, 2012, August 6). The street children do not have access to education, health, and other facilities, as a result, some children are automatically involved in some kind of petty crime during childhood, and when they become adults, their nature of crime becomes serious.

The third social implication cannot be ignored, particularly the issue of suicide, which is increasing year after year in cities and towns. According to the NCRB in the year 2014, more than 1, 31,666 suicides took place in India, with more than half of them occurring in urban areas. The suicide rate in cities was higher (12.2%) than the suicide rate across India (10.6%). In 2004, there were 1,13,697 suicide cases. Thus, suicide cases increased by 15.8% over a decade, from 2004 to 2014. The percentage share of suicides among the top States in India was 12.4% for Maharashtra; Tamil Nadu accounts for 12.2 %; West Bengal 10.9%; and Karnataka 8.3%% respectively. Interestingly, these are the top ten most urbanized Indian states. The four metropolitan cities with the highest number of suicides are Chennai (2214), Bengaluru (1906), Delhi (1847), and Mumbai (1196) (National Crime Records Bureau, 2015). The increase in suicides began in the 1990s, when India's liberalization policies were implemented. Despite the country's slow economic growth, it has had a positive impact on people's lives. However, this has resulted in increased stress and anxiety levels among people due to income disparities, the race to the top of the professional ladder, and excessive competition, which has led to an increase in suicides in a number of cases. Thus, the post-liberalization atmosphere, which is also one of the reasons for the increase in urbanization, has resulted in severe aspirational backlash, causing thousands of Indians to commit suicide, ranging from students to technologists and corporate executives to housewives (Punj, 2012, August 5).

Suggestions for Overcoming the Negative Implications of Urbanization

Reforms to urban institutional frameworks are urgently required in order to achieve effective urban governance. To accomplish this, it is necessary to revisit and update the 74th constitutional amendment act of 1992, which pertains to urban local self-government. The urban agencies should be given more financial and independent powers, as well as include in their various provisions for urbanization, according to the changing situation and environment, so that they can face the challenges of urbanization, as the powers and functions granted by the 74th act are two decades old. Furthermore, it is still up to the State government to decide how and to what extent various powers and functions are delegated to their urban local bodies, which is unfortunate and should be eliminated. There have also been instances in many states where the government has emphasized and established new urban development authorities or agencies for urban development, which are actually under the control of the state government, undermining the functioning of urban local self-government in the state and should be discouraged entirely. S.R. Maheshwari has correctly emphasized that the several functions previously performed by local bodies were taken away and are now performed by urban development authority or single purpose agencies, which are state government organizations. Thus, the State government has delegated responsibility to local organizations other than the municipal government, such as trusts, transportation undertakings, housing boards, and electricity boards (op. cit., Maheshwari). India's municipal government expenditure as a percentage of GDP was 0.5%,

whereas other countries such as Poland, Brazil, and South Africa had 4.5%, 5.0%, or 6.0%, respectively. Even within the BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa] countries, where both Brazil and South Africa were members, India's share was relatively low and unsatisfactory. As a result, urban local governments' economic viability must be strengthened, as well as their expenditure on various municipal activities increased. Rural areas need to be developed so that people do not consider migrating in such large numbers. Here, the role of the state government becomes more important, as do the Panchayati Raj Institutions, which require more powers and functions. The 73rd constitutional amendment act relating to rural local self-government needs to be re-looked at and framed in accordance with the true needs of rural people, particularly in light of climate change, which will primarily affect those who rely on agriculture directly or indirectly. Furthermore, the government has launched a number of programmes for the welfare of people living in rural areas, particularly those related to employment, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which guarantees 100 days of work for one unemployed person in a family per year. Since unemployment is the primary reason for people's migration, particularly to urban areas. Also, private players should be encouraged to establish businesses in rural areas by providing various types of concessions. Even if people want to migrate for better opportunities and life in that situation, instead of putting pressure on big cities, it is preferable to identify and develop small towns and cities that can absorb the rural migrant located close to their place. The basic infrastructure of urban areas, need to be developed. For which over the next decade, the investment of rupees in excess of US Dollar 1 trillion of public investment is needed, according to an estimate of CII [Confederation of Indian Industry] (op.cit., Confederation of Indian Industry, 2010). Similarly, other organizations and committees have estimated, such as Mckinsey, that urban infrastructure expenditures will total \$1.20 trillion over the next 20 years, with the two most important sectors being water infrastructure (\$200 billion) and urban transportation (\$590 billion). According to the Ahluwalia Committee of the Government of India, urban infrastructure expenditure will total \$785 billion, with \$150 billion required for water infrastructure and \$460 billion for urban transportation (op. cit., Mohan, 2012).

Governments do not have sufficient resources, so both the federal and state governments must encourage private investment in infrastructure creation and development. The scheme of PPP [Public Private Partnership] should be investigated and encouraged in the field of financing various public goods and services in urban areas. For example, in the month of August 2012, the Delhi government identified three areas in Delhi [Vasant Vihar, Mehrauli, and Malviya Nagar] under pilot study through PPP, to provide water services to the people residing in the above-mentioned places. One thing that needs to be done to make PPP successful is to bring all PPP projects under the RTI [Right to Information] Act, so that any information [except vital information related to the country's safety and security] related to the project can be accessed by the people at any time, as was done in South Africa under the RTI Act. Furthermore, people must be involved in the policymaking, implementation, and management of any PPP project by governments. The reason for people's involvement is to make them feel that the goods and services generated by the project are for their own benefit, and that they are equally responsible for its management.

India is both a developing economy and a liberal democracy, with competing demands for public investment. Infrastructure development requires a large sum of money, which governments do not have; additionally, large foreign and domestic companies are unwilling to invest in India due to high costs [interrupted] power, poor infrastructure, and high transaction costs in general (Menon & Mitra, 2009). Here, the SEZ [Special Economic Zone] can be promoted and used as a tool to attract and locate investments not only in large metropolises and cities, but also in areas where infrastructure investments are lacking, particularly in small towns and cities, which create job opportunities. Although a number of SEZs have already been established and are in operation in the country as a result of the Special Economic Zones Act of 2005, which was passed by Parliament in May 2005, it went into effect on February 10, 2006. So far, 585

SEZs have been approved, out of which 381 have been notified, and among them, 143 SEZs are already operational and exporting in excess of Rupees 3,00,000 crore, accounting for more than 28% of the country's total exports. It also provides direct employment for 7,00,000 people in the country ("Special Economic Zones in India", 2007). However, the issue of land acquisition, particularly agricultural land for a project, is fraught with controversy and must be addressed appropriately. Otherwise, we will face a problem similar to the Nandigram SEZ controversy, which occurred in 2006 in the state of West Bengal and caused numerous problems between farmers and the administration. Climate change policies should be central to India's long-term urbanization strategies. Especially if we see a major problem with water and power in large cities and towns, we can partially solve it by holding every citizen accountable for climate change. Starting with the upper middle class, who live in posh colonies or areas, it will be mandatory for them to have rainwater harvesting and a solar plant installed on their roof. The reason for starting with rich people is that they have the money and space to do so. Governments should gradually implement it for the middle and lower middle classes, though the latter two categories will be difficult to address due to financial and space constraints. But more than space, the financial constraint is a major impediment. Here, both Central and State governments need to take initiative, for freely providing rainwater harvesting and installing solar plants on the roof tops of the houses of people who are below the poverty line, and subsidizing it for the middle class. The government initiatives listed above should be implemented as a pilot project. If the results are satisfactory, it should be expanded; if not, it should be re-modified to address the current issues. However, it is important to remember that the policy for rainwater harvesting and solar plant installation cannot be put on hold or discarded from now on; rather, it must be implemented more effectively. Along with this, water and power conservation policies should be seriously considered, as they are inextricably linked. However, on June 30, 2008, the Government of India released its NAPCC [National Action Plan on Climate Change], which included eight national missions, one of which was related to the National Water Mission and the second to the National Solar Mission (op. cit., Sadashivam, T. 2010). However, according to one recent study by two authors, Sujatha Byravan and Sudhir Chella Rajan, who have evaluated India's NAPCC, some of which are published in one of the reputed English national newspapers in India called 'THE HINDU'.

According to two of them, even if sustainable development is a central guiding principle in India's climate policy, it has not been prioritized in the approaches and outcomes of specific missions. These missions were placed in eight separate bins, which led to viewing the problems and solutions through sector-specific lenses. According to them, India needed an approach that is inter-disciplinary in nature, breaks traditional ministerial boundaries, and learns quickly from the ongoing effects of warming and our successes and failures in dealing with them (Byravan & Sudhir, 2012, April 22).

CONCLUSION

This century has been dubbed the "urban century," as more people live in cities. The urbanization concept presents both challenges and opportunities for every country, though it may not be uniform across the board. In India, the urban population is also growing rapidly, but there is an infrastructure deficit that has posed a significant barrier to providing basic services to the people and, more importantly, to the country's economic growth. Thus, now is the time for our country to seriously consider and act on the negative implications of the urbanization concept in order to benefit the country's development. However, urbanization must be sustainable in two ways: first, it must benefit all members of society equally, making it socially inclusive, and second, it must be environmentally sustainable. Also, in general, three important questions must be answered by future urbanization studies. The first question is, "What does urbanization mean for rural areas?" The second question is, "Is it questionable whether urbanization reduces poverty rates?" Third, 'Are developing and underdeveloped countries prepared to deal with urban transition?' The answers to these questions will help us better understand the concept of urbanization and its implications for the development of any society and its people, including India.

Notes Note 1:

Crime Rate means: incidence of crimes committed against children per one lakh population of children (up to 18 years of age).

Note 2: Suicide Rate means Number of Suicides per one lakh population.

Note 3: 100 Paisa means One Rupee (Indian Currency).

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